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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/994,471	11/26/2001	Andreas Stiegler	943-002.2	7230

4955 7590 02/08/2005

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EXAMINER	
VO, HUYEN X	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2655	

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/994,471	STIEGLER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Huyen Vo	2655	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *26 November 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *26 November 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *4/1/2003*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 13-14 recite the limitation "*wherein the respectively used compression method ...*" on page 10, line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The examiner interprets the above limitation as "*wherein a respectively used compression method ...*". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nishimoto et al. (US 6292847).

5. Regarding claims 1 and 13, Nishimoto et al. disclose a decoding device and system for decompressing an audio and/or video signal that was compressed in

accordance with a given compression method, comprising: a program-controlled signal processor which receives the compressed audio signal and produces a decompressed audio signal under the control of a decompression program (*Arithmetic Circuit 25 in figure 1*); a loadable program memory which is connected to the signal processor, for storing the decompression program (*Semiconductor Memory 24 in figure 1*); and a management device which is connected to the program memory and is controlled by the compressed audio signal (*Selector 54 in figures 7-8*); wherein the management device manages decompression programs which correspond to at least two different compression methods in order to determine the respectively used compression method from the compressed audio signal, to select the pertinent decompression program and to load the decompression program into the program memory (*Selector 54 in figures 7-8, select appropriate decompression program to decompress the received signal*), wherein the management device includes an access device via which new decompression programs can be entered into the management device, and/or old decompression programs can be deleted (*col. 9, lines 1-50, the selector selects and copies one of the eight decompression programs to the rewritable memory 53. Decompression programs can be deleted/installed into the system*).

6. Regarding claim 2, Nishimoto et al. further disclose a decoding device as claimed in claim 1, in which the signal processor and the program memory are located in a signal processor (*element 23 in figure 1*), and wherein the management device can load a decompression program into the program memory (*col. 8, lines 1-17*).

7. Regarding claims 3 and 8, Nishimoto et al. further disclose a decoding device, wherein the management device has information about which decompression program is stored in the program memory, and only loads the decompression program to be loaded into the program memory if there is a difference between the stored decompression program and the decompression program to be loaded (*col. 8, lines 1-17*).

8. Regarding claims 4-7 and 9-12, Nishimoto et al. further disclose a decoding device, wherein at least the signal processor and the program memory are integrated into a network (*element 23 of figure 1 or the operation of figure 7*), wherein other signal processors and other program memories are integrated into the network (*figures 1 and/or 7*), wherein the access device is an interface (*I/F 21 in figure 1*), and wherein the access device is a signal source that is also suitable for producing audio signals (*figures 1 or 6*).

9. Regarding claim 14, Nishimoto et al. disclose a decoding method for decompressing an audio and/or video signal that was compressed in accordance with a given compression method, by means of a signal processor and a program memory connected thereto, wherein a respectively used compression method is determined from the compressed audio, the pertinent decompression program is selected and loaded into the program memory (*col. 8, lines 1-17*); and wherein a decompressed

audio signal is produced from the compressed audio signal under the control of the decompression program stored in the program memory (*col. 7, lines 31-40*).

10. Regarding claim 15, Nishimoto et al. further disclose a decoding method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the decompression program already stored in the program memory is determined, it is then compared with a decompression program to be loaded, and if there is a difference between the stored program and the decompression program to be loaded, the latter decompression program is loaded into the program memory (*col. 8, lines 1-17*).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huyen Vo whose telephone number is 703-305-8665. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris To can be reached on 703-305-4827. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner Huyen X. Vo

January 19, 2005

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SUSAN MCFADDEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER